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ADDITIONAL FORMS OF BIRDS FROM
COLOMBIA AND PANAMÁ

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ADDITIONAL FORMS OF BIRDS FROM COLOMBIA AND PANAMÁ

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As work on our ornithological collections from Colombia and Panamá has proceeded, several additional forms new to science have been found and are described in the following pages. There are included with these a few other reports for kinds of birds only partly or not previously known from the two republics concerned, to place this information on record for the benefit of others.

Family ARDEIDAE: HERONS

BUBULCUS IBIS IBIS (Linnaeus)

Ardea Ibis LINNAEUS, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 144 (Egypt).

A female cattle egret was taken by M. A. Carriker, Jr., at Punto Muchimbo, Valle, on the lower Río San Juan about 3 kilometers below Palestina, and on the opposite side of the river, on January 3, 1951. The bird is in immature dress, with only a small amount of buff on the crown. This apparently is the first record for Colombia and is indication that this Old World species is now spreading widely over northern South America. It is now recorded from Dutch Guiana, British Guiana, Venezuela, and Colombia. Observers should watch for small white herons, in general like the snowy heron, but with yellow bill. In adults the bill is described as reddish at the base, but these would stand out otherwise because of the strong buff markings on crown and breast.

Family COCHLEARIIDAE: BOAT-BILLED HERONS

COCHLEARIUS COCHLEARIUS COCHLEARIUS (Linnaeus)

Cancroma cochlearius LINNAEUS, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 233 (Cayenne).

A boat-billed heron that I shot at the mouth of Río Imamadó on the upper Río Jaqué, Darién, on April 16, 1947, is a specimen of the pale-colored, typical form, not reported previously in Panamá.

COCHLEARIUS COCHLEARIUS PANAMENSIS Griscom

Cochlearius zeledoni panamensis Griscom, Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 235, November 11, 1926, p. 11 (Corozal, Canal Zone).

A female collected by M. A. Carriker, Jr., at Acandí, Chocó, on the western shore of the Golfo de Urabá, January 17, 1950, is representative of this dark-plumaged form of Panamá, here recorded for the first time from Colombia. It will be interesting to determine if this subspecies extends into the lower Atrato Basin, particularly in view of the record of the typical race given above in extreme southwestern Darién.

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE: GOATSUCKERS

CHORDEILES ACUTIPENNIS MICROMERIS Oberholser

Chordeiles acutipennis micromeris Oberholser, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 86, April 6, 1914, pp. 24 (in key), 100 (Xbac, Yucatán).

In a series of nighthawks collected January 17, 1947, at El Difícil, Magdalena, in the level country to the east of the lower Río Magdalena I find six specimens of this form, previously unrecorded in Colombia. Another was taken at Camp Costa Rica, not far distant, January 26. Others were shot at Norosí, March 14, 1947, and at La Raya, January 22, 1948, both localities being in Bolívar. These birds are wholly typical of this form of Central America, which is common in migration in Panamá and apparently also in northern Colombia.

Family APODIDAE: SWIFTS

CHAETURA SPINICAUDA AETHERODROMA, new subspecies

Characters.—Similar to *Chaetura spinicauda fumosa*¹ but smaller.

Description.—U.S.N.M. No. 409438, male, Chepo, from 500 feet elevation on Cerro Carhunco, Provincia de Panamá, Panamá, collected April 14, 1949, by A. Wetmore and W. M. Perrygo (orig. No. 14808). Crown, back, wings, tail, and upper tail coverts dull black, with a very faint greenish cast; rump pale smoke gray, shading to smoke gray on lower back; sides of head and of neck hair brown; an indistinct spot of smoke gray in front of eye; throat somewhat whiter than pale smoke gray; upper breast mouse gray, shading to deep mouse gray on abdomen and to dark mouse gray on sides, flanks, and

¹ *Chaetura fumosa* Salvin, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1870, p. 204 (Bugabá, Chiriquí).

under tail coverts; under wing coverts dark mouse gray. Bill black; tarsus chaetura black; claws chaetura drab (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males, 13 specimens, wing 100.2-105.2 (103.0), tail 36.8-40.5 (38.7), culmen from base 4.8-5.8 (5.2), tarsus 10.0-11.6 (10.6) mm.

Females, 4 specimens, wing 100.3-107.8 (104.0), tail 37.7-42.7 (40.6), culmen from base 5.0-5.7 (5.2), tarsus 11.0-11.5 (11.1) mm.

Type.—Male, wing 101.3, tail 40.0, culmen from base 5.8, tarsus 10.0 mm.

Range.—Panamá, from the Provincia de Panamá (Chepo, Charco del Toro on Río Majé) through the Comarca de San Blas (Permé) and Darién (Cana, Jaqué) to Colombia, in Antioquia (Puerto Valdivia, Novita, El Real), Cauca (Juntas de Tamaná, Río San Juan), and northeastern Magdalena (Cacagualito).

Remarks.—Small swifts of the species *Chaetura spinicauda* are common in many localities but are so difficult to obtain that it has taken several seasons in the field to secure a sufficient series to determine the identity of those found in Panamá and northern Colombia. When enough had been collected it became apparent that two groups differing in size were included in the range currently assigned to the race *fumosa*, a larger one in Costa Rica and Chiriquí, and a smaller one in eastern Panamá and Colombia. As the form was described by Salvin from two specimens from Bugabá, western Chiriquí, it has been necessary first to ascertain the measurements of this original lot. This has been possible through the kind cooperation of J. D. Macdonald of the British Museum (Natural History), who has verified the information that the two skins had been collected by Arcé, and says further that a definite type had not been selected between them. He has furnished measurements of both right and left wings, for the chord, and with the wing flattened. One specimen had the tip of the left wing much worn. The chord of the right wing in these two is 109.0 and 108.0 mm., measurements that fall within the limits of the larger group, as is shown by the following data from Costa Rican skins. The series includes those in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy and in the Carnegie Museum, which I have examined through the assistance of J. L. Peters and W. E. Clyde Todd.

Males, 8 specimens, wing 108.5-115.4 (110.7), tail 37.7-40.7 (38.9), culmen from base 4.8-5.5 (5.1), tarsus 9.9-11.8 (10.6) mm.

Females, 8 specimens, wing 105.5-113.4 (109.9), tail 39.3-41.5 (39.8), culmen from base 4.6-6.0 (5.3), tarsus 9.6-11.6 (10.6) mm.

Specimens of the typical form examined from Costa Rica come

from Pozo Azul de Pirris and El General. Intergradation between the two races is assumed to take place between eastern Chiriquí and the western part of the Province of Panamá, an area from which no specimens are at present available to me.

Hellmayr,² in discussing *fumosa*, considered the type to be "Arcé coll. Nr. 3328," which is the bird noted above as having the left wing much abraded at the tip. It is evidently this worn left wing that Hellmayr measured to arrive at the length of 106 mm. that he lists in the reference cited, since Mr. Macdonald gives 107 mm. for flattened left wing in this same bird. The right wing, on the contrary, Macdonald writes, measures 112.5 mm. flattened, which is in line with Hellmayr's measurements for the other specimen from the type locality.

Family TROCHILIDAE: HUMMINGBIRDS

HYLOCHARIS GRAYI HUMBOLDTII (Bourcier and Mulsant)

Trochilus humboldtii BOURCIER and Mulsant, Ann. Sci. Phys. Nat. Agr. Ind., Soc. Roy. Agr. Lyon, sér. 2, vol. 4, 1852, p. 142 (Rio Mira, Esmeraldas, Ecuador).

A male and two females that W. M. Perrygo and I collected near Jaqué on the coast of Darién on March 18 and 26 and April 11, 1946, are the first reported north of the Baudó region of northwestern Colombia.

Family FURNARIIDAE: OVENBIRDS

XENERPESTES MINLOSI UMBRATICUS, new subspecies

Characters.—Similar to *Xenerpestes minlosi minlosi* Berlepsch³ but decidedly darker above, without definite light streaks on the crown; hindneck, back, wings, and tail darker.

Description.—Type, U.S.N.M. No. 443152, male, Río San Juan at Punto Muchimbo, Valle, Colombia, December 24, 1950, M. A. Carriker, Jr. (orig. No. 19079). Anterior half of crown dull black, shading gradually to blackish mouse gray across the posterior section of the pileum to the hindneck, the feathers, except on the forecrown, edged slightly with deep mouse gray; back and scapulars dark olive-gray; rump and upper tail coverts light grayish olive; primaries and secondaries sooty black, edged lightly with hair brown; wing coverts

² Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern, 1907, vol. 8, 1908, p. 161.

³ *Xenerpestes minlosi* Berlepsch, Ibis, 1886, p. 53, pl. 4 (near Bucaramanga, Colombia).

blackish mouse gray, the middle and greater series tipped with white spots that form two well-marked wing bars; middle rectrices and outer webs of others deep olive-gray, the concealed portions of the outer ones deep mouse gray, the two outermost edged lightly at the tip, mainly on the inner web, with pale olive-gray; lores olive-buff, beginning at the nostril, becoming dull white, and passing backward above the eye as a prominent superciliary stripe; sides of head deep olive-buff anteriorly, passing into mouse gray posteriorly; under surface dull whitish, washed indistinctly with primrose yellow, with a few small, indistinct flecks of dark neutral gray on the sides of the upper breast; bend of wing and axillars marguerite yellow; under wing coverts white; inner webs of primaries edged with dull white; under tail coverts olive-buff. Maxilla dark neutral gray; tip of mandible neutral gray, base grayish olive; tarsus and toes deep neutral gray, claws whitish. (From dried skin.)

Measurements.—Males, 2 specimens, wing 57.1-57.3 (57.2), tail 41.6-45.6 (43.6), culmen from base 13.4 (one specimen only), tarsus 15.3-16.0 (15.6) mm.

Females, 2 specimens, wing 52.5-54.9 (53.7), tail 42.2-42.6 (42.4), culmen from base 12.8-13.7 (13.2), tarsus 14.8-15.1 (14.9) mm.

Type.—Male, wing 57.1, tail 41.6, (extreme tip of culmen broken), tarsus 16.0 mm.

Range.—From eastern Darién, Panamá (Garachiné, Río Sambú, Cituro), to northern Valle, northwestern Colombia (Malaguita, Punto Muchimbo). (A record from Tierra Alta on the lower Río Sinú, western Bolívar, may refer to this form.)

Remarks.—The four specimens of the new race seen have been compared with two topotypes of *minlosi* in the U. S. National Museum from Hacienda Santana, above Bucaramanga, Santander. The two *minlosi* are definitely paler above, and have the fore part of the crown clearly streaked with whitish, a character noted in the original description and shown in the plate accompanying it. It is supposed that the records from Boyacá and Cundinamarca pertain to the typical subspecies, while that from Tierra Alta in western Bolívar may be the new form.

The type specimen of *umbraticus* was shot high up in a tall tree, on the south side of the Río San Juan, near the mouth of Río Calima.

As further specimens have come to hand from widely scattered localities it has begun to seem probable that this bird is more common than has been supposed. Because of small size and lack of striking markings it is often overlooked.

PREMNOPLEX BRUNNESCENS MNIONOPHILUS, new subspecies

Characters.—Similar to *Premnoplex brunnescens distinctus* Griscom⁴ but definitely grayer; back, rump, and upper tail coverts more olive, less rufescent; crown slightly grayer; under surface lighter, grayer, with throat and other markings lighter buff.

Description.—Type, U.S.N.M. No. 443674, male, south face of Cerro Campana, Provincia de Panamá, Panamá, at 3,000 feet elevation, March 19, 1951, A. Wetmore and W. M. Perrygo (orig. No. 16437). Crown chaetura black, each feather being lighter centrally, the light markings being dull colonial buff on the forehead, becoming progressively duller posteriorly, shading to olive-buff in center of crown, and to citrine drab on nape, the feathers therefore with a squamate appearance; lores chamois, mixed with bristly projecting filaments chaetura black in color; a somewhat indistinct superciliary chamois; auricular region chaetura drab, with indistinct shaft streaks of chamois; feathers on hindneck very dull colonial buff centrally, forming an indistinct collar; back dull snuff brown, with faintly indicated darker distal edgings, producing indistinct squamations; rump and upper tail coverts Prout's brown; lesser wing coverts sepia; middle and greater wing coverts Prout's brown; primaries and secondaries chaetura black, edged broadly on outer web with Prout's brown; rectrices bister with fuscous shafts; throat chamois; chin paler, nearer cream-buff, the feathers tipped very faintly with dusky neutral gray; feathers of upper breast cream-buff, with well-marked edgings of dark olive, producing prominent light spots; lower breast and abdomen deep olive, with elongate, tear-shaped central spots of cream-buff, these becoming progressively narrower and less in size until they disappear on the lower abdomen; sides and flanks sepia, the sides with a few elongate central markings of cream-buff; under tail coverts Prout's brown, with indistinct spots of buckthorn brown; under wing coverts deep olive, mixed with chamois; edge of wing, at base of outer primary, chamois barred with deep olive. Maxilla blackish; mandible pale olive-buff with a blackish line along tomium; tarsus and toes fuscous; claws light drab (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males, 2 specimens, wing 61.2-61.6 (61.4), tail 55.9-56.2 (56.1), culmen from base 14.6-15.6 (15.1), tarsus 18.9-19.1 (19.0) mm.

Female, 2 specimens, wing 60.0-60.4 (60.2), tail 56.1-56.8 (56.4), culmen from base 16.0-16.3 (16.1), tarsus 19.1-19.6 (19.3) mm.

⁴ *Premnoplex brunnescens distinctus* Griscom, Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 280, September 10, 1927, p. 5 (Chitrá, 4,000 feet elevation, Veraguas, Panamá).

Type.—Male, wing 61.2, tail 55.9, culmen from base 15.6, tarsus 19.1 mm.

Range.—Known only from 3,000 feet elevation on the more humid areas of Cerro Campana, Provincia de Panamá, Panamá.

Remarks.—The new form here described differs from *Premnoplex brunnescens albescens* Griscom, of the mountains of eastern Darién, in being more olive, less rufescent above, and definitely more buffy on the throat and other light markings of the lower surface. In general the new race is more or less intermediate in appearance between its two geographically nearest relatives, *distinctus* of Veraguas and *albescens* of Darién, but differs from both in being more olive, less rufescent above. All three are closely similar in size.

SCLERURUS GUATEMALENSIS ENNOSIPHILLUS,⁵ new subspecies

Characters.—Similar to *Sclerurus guatemalensis salvini* Salvadori and Festa,⁶ but lighter, grayer above; paler below; outer webs of primaries more olive.

Description.—Type, U.S.N.M. No. 392775, female, from Volador (near El Tigre), 2,600 feet elevation, 25 miles west of Simití, Bolívar, Colombia, May 27, 1947, by M. A. Carriker, Jr. (orig. No. 11123). Crown, hindneck, and upper back sepia, the forehead tipped lightly with isabella color; lesser and middle wing coverts and lower back bister; lower rump and upper tail coverts chestnut-brown; outer webs of greater wing coverts, primaries and secondaries Mars brown; inner webs fuscous; rectrices sooty black; throat white, with the feathers edged with dusky neutral gray, producing a scalloped appearance; sides of head sepia, with slight shaft streakings of isabella color, which become broader in a line from below rictus back under the auricular region, producing a faint streak; sides of neck mingled sepia and Saccardo's umber; feathers of lower foreneck and upper breast sayal brown centrally, tipped with bister, with shaft lines of cinnamon-buff, producing an indistinct spotting; lower breast and sides between Saccardo's umber and sepia; abdomen and under tail coverts between bister and sepia; under wing coverts tawny-olive; inner webs of central primaries edged with avellaneous on under surface. Maxilla brownish black; tip of maxilla fuscous, base buffy brown; tarsus

⁵ From *ἐννοσίφυλλος*, shaking or scattering leaves, in allusion to the active habit of this bird in overturning and throwing dead leaves about in search for food.

⁶ *Sclerurus salvini* Salvadori and Festa, Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. Comp. Torino, vol. 14, No. 362, November 17, 1899, p. 23 (Río Peripá, Ecuador).

blackish brown, becoming buffy brown on upper end of posterior face; feet blackish brown, claws slightly browner (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males, 9 specimens, wing 85.3-90.1 (87.5), tail 58.2-64.2 (60.9), culmen from base 22.6-24.9 (23.8), tarsus 21.4-23.9 (22.1) mm.

Females, 5 specimens, wing 85.8-90.0 (87.9), tail 56.8-59.0 (57.6), culmen from base 22.0-23.9 (22.7), tarsus 21.4-22.6 (22.1) mm.

Type.—Female, wing 88.3, tail 57.6, culmen from base 22.6, tarsus 22.5 mm.

Range.—From the Río Sinú valley (Nazaret, Tierra Alta, Quebrada Salvajín) eastward through the foothill area to the western slopes above the lower Río Magdalena (Santa Rosa, Volador), Bolívar, Colombia.

Remarks.—Description of the present form marks a considerable extension of range for this species through north-central Colombia, as previously these birds have been reported only from the west-coast area and the upper reaches of the Río Sinú. The three geographic races now recognized are based on small differences in color that change almost insensibly over intermediate areas of considerable extent. No appreciable variation in size is evident in the three forms. The type race, which is brighter, more reddish brown above, extends from Guatemala (where few have been found to date) to Panamá, being found in typical form to the Canal Zone. Beyond this area there is a gradual change through eastern Panamá Province and Darién to the darker, more sooty *salvini*, which ranges on the Pacific slope from eastern Darién to Ecuador. The previously unrecognized form described here on basis of more grayish olive color, extends eastward in Colombia from the Sinú valley through the forested hill country of southern Bolívar to the western side of the Magdalena valley west of Simití. This race intergrades with *salvini* in the eastern part of the Río Atrato valley, specimens from Villa Artiaga, near Pavarondocito, being intermediate. The record from Quimarí on the upper Sinú, reported by de Schauensee⁷ under the name *Sclerurus guatemalensis guatemalensis*, belongs without question under *ennosiphyllus*, as the typical race extends to the south and east only to western Darién.

SCLERURUS MEXICANUS OBSCURIOR Hartert

Sclerurus mexicanus obscurior Hartert, Nov. Zool., vol. 8, October 5, 1901, p. 370 (Lita, Esmeraldas, Ecuador).

Three collected April 17, 19, and 24, 1912, by E. A. Goldman at the head of Río Limón, on Cerro Pirri, Darién, agree fully with birds

⁷ *Caldasia*, vol. 5, No. 24, July 10, 1950, p. 690.

from extreme western Colombia and northwestern Ecuador. This race has not been reported previously north of the Province of Valle, western Colombia.

Family FORMICARIIDAE: ANT-THRUSHES

MYRMORNIS STICTOPTERA (Salvin)

Rhopoterpe stictoptera SALVIN, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 1, No. 6, March 1, 1893, p. 32 (Santo Domingo, Nicaragua).

Peters⁸ gives the first record of this bird for Colombia from El Umbo, Boyacá, the specimen being in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. M. A. Carriker, Jr., collected a pair at Socarré, Bolívar, on the Río Sinú, April 21 and 22, 1949, and another pair at Unguía, Chocó, March 10 and 16, 1950. On careful comparison with an excellent series from Nicaragua I find no differences in these birds from points far distant from the type locality.

All material that I have seen is so clearly distinct from *M. torquata* that I consider *stictoptera* and *torquata* specifically separated.

Family FRINGILLIDAE: GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, BUNTINGS

ZONOTRICHIA CAPENSIS ORESTERA, new subspecies

Characters.—Similar to *Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis* Allen,⁹ but decidedly darker, less buffy brown above; dark markings of dorsal surface blacker; gray of crown darker; chestnut of nuchal collar deeper; paler edgings darker; rump darker gray; tail darker; sides and flanks grayer, less buffy; under surface, in general, whiter.

Description.—Type, U.S.N.M. No. 434103, male adult, southeast face of Cerro Campana, Provincia de Panamá, Panamá, 2,000 feet elevation, March 2, 1951, A. Wetmore and W. M. Perrygo (orig. No. 16122). Median crown stripe and auricular area, extending forward toward gape, mouse gray; superciliary stripe light mouse gray, changing to pale mouse gray behind the eye; a few whitish feathers behind nostril; broad lateral crown stripes, an indistinct circle around eye, and indistinct edgings on gray auriculars and rictus dull black; circle of feathers on eyelids dull whitish with whitish bases on feathers immediately in front of eye; hindneck and sides of neck Mikado brown, forming a distinct collar; feathers of back and scapu-

⁸ Check-list Birds of the World, vol. 7, 1951, p. 256.

⁹ *Zonotrichia capensis costaricensis* Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 3, September 29, 1891, p. 374 (San José, Costa Rica.)

lars black centrally, forming heavy longitudinal streaks, bordered broadly with snuff brown laterally and tipped with deep olive-buff; rump hair brown; upper tail coverts olive-brown; lesser wing coverts sooty black, edged lightly with mouse gray; middle coverts similar but tipped prominently on the distal part of the outer web with white, forming a distinct bar; greater wing coverts olivaceous-black, edged with snuff brown, and tipped lightly with white to form a second bar; primaries and secondaries fuscous-black, edged lightly with pale smoke gray; tertials dull black, margined with snuff brown; rectrices fuscous-black; throat pure white; sides of foreneck black, the two sides united across the front by an indistinct band where the feathers are white tipped with deep to dusky neutral gray; breast paler than pale olive-gray; abdomen white; under tail coverts pale olive-buff; sides drab, becoming slightly more buffy brown on flanks; under wing coverts light grayish olive, edged with dull white; edge of wing dark mouse gray, with a distinct spot of white at base of ninth primary; inner webs of primaries edged on lower surface with a line of pale olive-buff. Bill dull black, with a wash of fuscous at base of mandible; tarsus and toes buffy brown; claws fuscous (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males, 8 specimens, wing 60.5-64.6 (62.9), tail 50.4-54.9 (52.6, average of 7 individuals), culmen from base 12.2-13.2 (12.8, average of 7 individuals), tarsus 21.0-22.7 (21.6) mm.

Female, 1 specimen, wing 59.5, tail 51.6, culmen from base 12.6, tarsus 21.2 mm.

Type.—Male, wing 63.2, tail 52.1, culmen from base 13.2, tarsus 21.0 mm.

Range.—Open slopes of Cerro Campana, in the western part of Provincia de Panamá, Panamá.

Remarks.—It is only recently that these birds have been noted in the mountains immediately west of the Canal Zone, and the series recorded here includes the first specimens that have been taken in this section, so far as I am aware. The type locality of *orestera* in an airline is distant only 50 kilometers from Balboa.

The birds range over open, grass-covered ridges where exposures of volcanic rock thrust out from the poor, stony soil, and woody vegetation is composed of low, scrubby growth in sheltered valleys, only scattered shrubs appearing elsewhere. The sparrows remain mainly in the grassland, perching on boulders or in the low bushes. They were found from 1,800 feet upward. Their haunt is now easily accessible, as it is possible to drive in a passenger car to the slopes where the birds are common. In fact this was one of the first birds

that I saw on my visit to this mountain. While inconspicuous, these sparrows are not especially shy, so that the species is one that is easily found when its proper haunts are known.

The extent of the range is at present uncertain. Three specimens in the American Museum of Natural History from Calobre and Santa Fé in eastern Veraguas are to be placed with *orestera*, though slightly intermediate toward *costaricensis*. An old skin in the U. S. National Museum marked Cascajal, Coclé, appears nearer *costaricensis*. Presumably this was taken on the high open slopes on the Pacific side, above the head of the Río Cascajal, which is a tributary of the Río Coclé del Norte. Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, who has been on the Cascajal, informs me that the Caribbean slope is heavily forested, but that there are open, grassy slopes just over the divide toward La Pintada. All specimens from Chiriquí that I have seen are to be placed definitely with *costaricensis*, so that the area of intergradation between the two forms would appear to be in Veraguas. A sight record from Cerro Chame by Gerald Rogers¹⁰ presumably refers to *orestera*, since this mountain lies adjacent to Cerro Campana a few miles to the southeast, the two being separated by a low divide.

¹⁰ Auk, 1945, p. 641.